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ANNUAL REPORT

OF

**South Carolina Department
of Veterans Affairs**

FISCAL YEAR 1979-80

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Submitted by

**Hoyt B. Hill, Jr., Director
S.C. Department of Veterans Affairs
1205 Pendleton Street
Columbia, South Carolina**

September 1, 1980

ANNUAL REPORT

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South Carolina Department of Veterans Affairs

FISCAL YEAR 1979-80

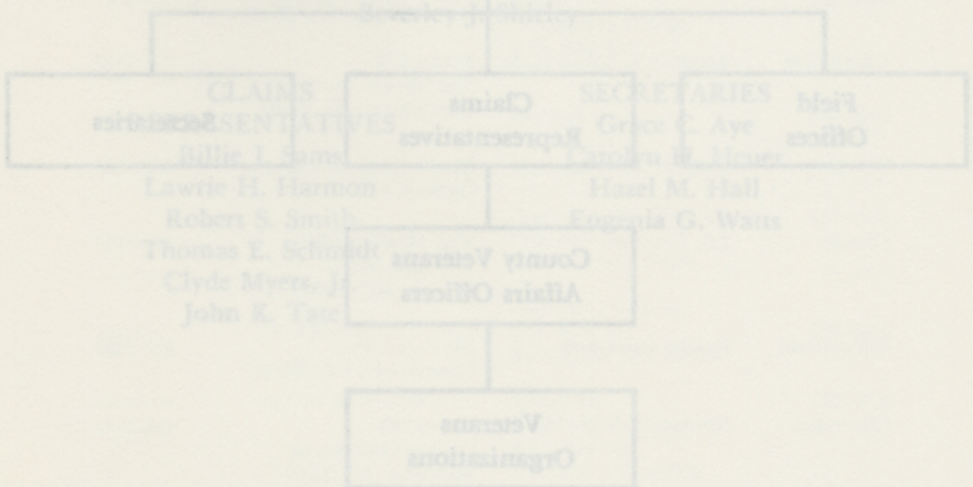
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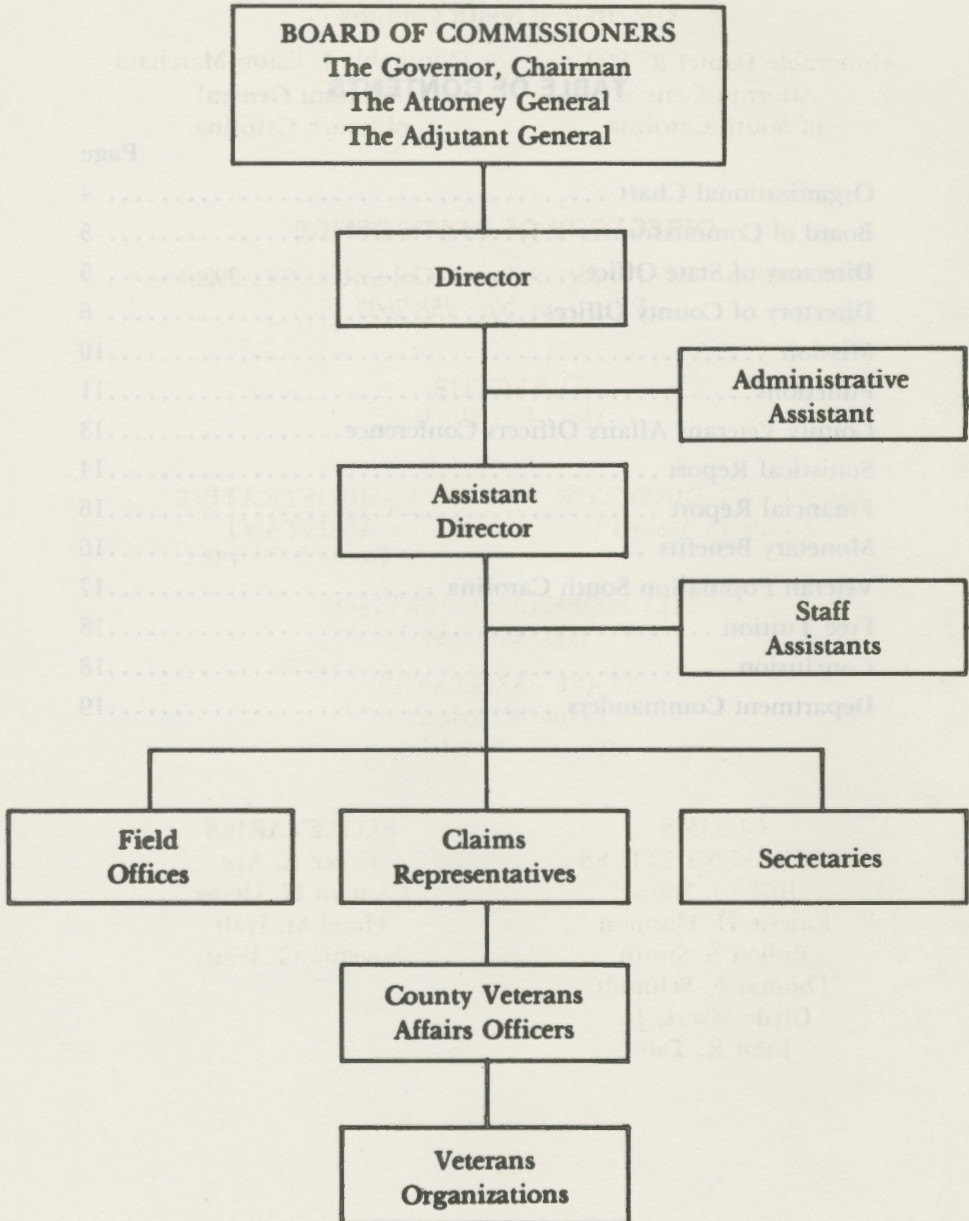
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**ORGANIZATIONAL CHART
OF
DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS**



BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

CHAIRMAN

Honorable Richard W. Riley
Governor of South Carolina

Honorable Daniel R. McLeod
Attorney General
of South Carolina

Honorable J. Eston Marchant
Adjutant General
of South Carolina

DIRECTORY OF STATE OFFICE

Location: 1205 Pendleton Street, Columbia, S.C. 29201
Telephone No.: 758-2607

DIRECTOR

Hoyt B. Hill, Jr.

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR

Grady D. Majors

ADMINISTRATIVE

ASSISTANT

Linda S. Skipper

FIELD OFFICE SUPERVISOR

Jack M. Tiller

STAFF ASSISTANTS

Lettie W. Rogers

Beverley J. Shirley

CLAIMS

REPRESENTATIVES

Billie J. Sams

Lawrie H. Harmon

Robert S. Smith

Thomas E. Schmidt

Clyde Myers, Jr.

John K. Tate

SECRETARIES

Grace C. Aye

Carolyn H. Heuer

Hazel M. Hall

Eugenia G. Watts

DIRECTORY OF COUNTY OFFICES

County	Officer	Location	Telephone No.
Abbeville	Charlie C. Murdock	Room 205 County Courthouse Abbeville, S.C. 29620	459-2608
Aiken	Lucien J. Hockman	828 Richland St., West Aiken, S.C. 29801	649-3481 Ex. 191
Allendale	George H. Kearse	703 Pine St. Allendale, S.C. 29180	584-2942
Anderson	Fred S. Winstead	1621 N. Main St. Anderson, S.C. 29621	224-3901
Bamberg	B. Monroe Hiers	109 North Street P.O. Box 416 Bamberg, S.C. 29003	245-2492
Barnwell	Douglas Gene Rowell	T. Edward Richardson Bldg. Highway 278, West P.O. Box 871 Barnwell, S.C. 29812	259-7161 Ex. 20
Beaufort	C.B. Epps, Jr.	1713 Prince St. P.O. Box 97 Beaufort, S.C. 29902	524-4444 Ex. 344
Berkeley	Joseph R. West	334 East Main Street P.O. Box 1241 Moncks Corner, S.C. 29461	899-2222
Calhoun	Eldred S. Robinson	Agriculture Building St. Matthews, S.C. 29135	874-3816
Charleston	Thomas R. Johnson, Sr.	Room 322 The Center Charleston, S.C. 29403	723-6702
Cherokee	Clarence L. Byars	County Courthouse Gaffney, S.C. 29340	489-5172
Chester	J.B. Cranford	War Memorial Bldg. P.O. Box 957 Chester, S.C. 29706	385-6157
Chesterfield	Harlan Campbell	101 Park Drive Chesterfield, S.C. 29709	623-2482
Clarendon	Norman J. McFaddin	Room 203 County Courthouse Manning, S.C. 29109	435-2527

County	Officer	Location	Telephone No.
Colleton	G. Herman Kinard	Agriculture Building P.O. Box 527 Walterboro, S.C. 29488	549-1412
Darlington	Clarence H. Jordan, Jr.	County Courthouse Darlington, S.C. 29532	393-1051
Dillon	George M. Pullie	City-County Office Bldg. Dillon, S.C. 29536	774-4133
Dorchester	George W. Thomas	200 Raysor St. P.O. Box 661 St. George, S.C. 29477	563-2331 Ext. 216
Edgefield	Betty H. Sexton	County Courthouse P.O. Box 5 Edgefield, S.C. 29824	637-3224
Fairfield	Charles A. Medlin	117 East Washington St. P.O. Box 456 Winnsboro, S.C. 29180	635-4131
Florence	Mrs. Etta A. Jaillette	City-County Complex Box T Florence, S.C. 29501	665-3045
Georgetown	Mrs. Maria H. Padget	County Office Building P.O. Box 306 Georgetown, S.C. 29440	546-7734
Greenville	John W. Fortner	1200 Pendleton St. Greenville, S.C. 29611	298-8698
Greenwood	Thomas E. Fish	Room 108 County Courthouse P.O. Box 441 Greenwood, S.C. 29646	229-5500
Hampton	Mrs. Leola Bennett	201 Jackson St. Rm. 105 West Hampton, S.C. 29924	943-2258
Horry	A. David Altman	Horry County Courthouse P.O. Box 385 Conway, S.C. 29526	248-6247
Jasper	J.E. Horton, Jr.	County Courthouse P.O. Box 112 Ridgeland, S.C. 29936	726-8940
Kershaw	Harold R. Truesdale	Room 225 County Courthouse P.O. Box 691 Camden, S.C. 29020	432-4096

County	Officer	Location	Telephone No.
Lancaster	Ward M. Faulkenberry	County Courthouse P.O. Box 282 Lancaster, S.C. 29720	283-2469
Laurens	Charles T. Knight	Courthouse Annex P.O. Box 193 Laurens, S.C. 29360	984-4041
Lee	James F. Sellers, Jr.	Lee County Courthouse P.O. Box 461 Bishopville, S.C. 29010	484-5341 Ex. 254
Lexington	Robert S. Powell	219 E. Main St. Memorial Bldg. Lexington, S.C. 29072	359-4225
McCormick	T.C. Faulkner, Jr.	County Office Building McCormick, S.C. 29835	465-2212
Marion	Walter D. Byrd	101 West Court Street Marion, S.C. 29571	423-6732
Marlboro	Frank S. Ward	County Courthouse P.O. Box 401 Bennettsville, S.C. 29512	479-2651
Newberry	Allen W. Morrison	1306 Hunt St. P.O. Box 217 Newberry, S.C. 29108	276-3233
Oconee	Harrison E. Orr	Law Enforcement Center South Church St. Walhalla, S.C. 29691	638-2214
Orangeburg	Laura B. Williams	155 Wall St. Orangeburg, S.C. 29115	533-1000
Pickens	C. Carl Pilgrim	County Courthouse P.O. Box 451 Pickens, S.C. 29671	878-4778
Richland	John E. Brewer	Suite 409 1701 Main Street Columbia, S.C. 29201	748-4662
Saluda	C. C. Riddle	P.O. Box 307 Saluda, S.C. 29138	445-8848
Spartanburg	M. Frank Edwards	Room 159 County Courthouse Spartanburg, S.C. 29301	585-1811 Ex. 266
Sumter	Harold S. Iseman	County Courthouse Rm. 100 Sumter, S.C. 29150	773-1581 Ex. 230

County	Officer	Location	Telephone No.
Union	Robert T. Eubanks	County Courthouse Union, S.C. 29379	427-3462
Williamsburg	W. J. Small, Jr.	Office #6 Courthouse Square Kingstree, S.C. 29556	354-6352
York	Earl B. Gregory	County Office Building P.O. Box 11114 Rock Hill, S.C. 29730	327-2956

The original Act was amended in 1945 by providing for a County Service Officer (now County Veterans Affairs Officer) in each of the forty-six counties in the state and retaining the purpose, as amended, "to ensure establishment and maintenance of the service work program in behalf of the veterans and their dependents and to provide for the maximum benefits granted by laws enacted by the National Congress."

These services are extended to eligible persons including parents, widows, children and dependents of war veterans and ex-servicemen and women.

There are approximately 332,000 living veterans in South Carolina as of June 30, 1980, and as our veterans become older, more and more of them become eligible for medical service connected disability payments or non-service pension payments. Also, the death of a veteran usually results in a claim being filed by his surviving or survivors. Our tasks are additionally being swelled by our newly discharged veterans and heirs of the Regular Service.

It is impossible for our claims personnel to know everything about all of the benefits that may be available to veterans. Their knowledge is constantly being updated by the Veterans Administration. Periodic meetings sponsored by this Agency held with our County Veterans Affairs Officers each year to keep them abreast of the changing laws and benefits available. These meetings are instructed by the personnel in this Agency and by technicians and officials from the Veterans Administration in Columbia and Washington.

The necessity for personal assistance to veterans in filing and pursuing claims and a continuing information program results from the fact that the Veterans Administration is a very large and complex organization. The local principles that we veterans' benefits are awarded automatically—All Must Be Applied For. The Veterans Administration is

MISSION

The Department of Veterans Affairs was originally created in 1927, as the State Service Bureau, by an Act of the General Assembly of the State of South Carolina for the purpose "of assisting all ex-servicemen, regardless of the wars in which their service may have been rendered, in filing, presenting and prosecuting to final determination all claims which they have for money compensation, hospitalization, training and insurance benefits under the terms of federal legislation relative thereto."

The original Act was amended in 1945 by providing for a County Service Officer (now County Veterans Affairs Officer) in each of the forty-six counties in the state and restating the purpose, as amended, "to ensure stabilization and coordination of the service work for and in behalf of the war veterans and ex-servicemen and women of South Carolina, in order that they may be guaranteed the maximum benefits granted by laws enacted by the National Congress."

These services are extended to eligible dependents, including parents, widows, children and orphans of war veterans and ex-servicemen and women.

There are approximately 335,000 living veterans in South Carolina as of June 30, 1980, and as our veterans become older, more and more of them become eligible for increased service connected disability payments or non-service pension payments. Also, the death of a veteran usually results in a claim being filed by his survivor, or survivors. Our ranks are additionally being swelled by our newly discharged veterans and retirees of the Regular Service.

It is impossible for our claims personnel to know everything about all of the benefits that may be available to veterans, their dependents, beneficiaries, widows and orphans, but we must be able to know where to find the answers. Periodic meetings sponsored by this Agency are held with our County Veterans Affairs Officers each year to keep them abreast of the changing laws and benefits available. These meetings are instructed by the personnel in this Agency and by technicians and officials from the Veterans' Administration in Columbia and Washington.

The necessity for personal assistance to veterans in filing and pursuing claims and a continuing information program results from the legal principle that no veterans' benefits are awarded automatically—All Must Be Applied For. The Veterans Administration is

not a "hand-out" agency as all claims allowed must be justified; hence, skill and knowledge in service work comes into being when we know what evidence is needed to bring about the favorable decision.

We believe that our record in serving South Carolina veterans, their dependents and survivors is equal to any in the United States. The Veterans Administration does have authority to resolve benefit of reasonable doubt, based on all available evidence, in adjudicating cases and we are, therefore, able to have many "close" cases allowed on that basis.

FUNCTIONS

The primary function of this Department, and the majority of our time is spent, in working with and supervising our forty-six County Veterans Affairs Officers in helping them with individual cases in their respective counties.

Other major functions performed by the Department of Veterans Affairs in accordance with the law are as follows:

1. Assist veterans, their families and survivors in initiating, filing and prosecuting claims.
2. Represent veterans before the VA Rating Boards and the Board of Appeals.
3. Publish timely informational bulletins on technical rules and regulations relating to veterans' benefits.
4. Assist and cooperate with all veterans organizations in their work.
5. Conduct Veterans Affairs Officers Schools to instruct in veterans benefits.
6. Maintain complete files on all veterans whom we assist.
7. Assist similar agencies in other states in securing evidence needed in the development of claims.
8. Assist veterans insofar as possible in securing Social Security, Welfare, and related benefits.
9. Assist survivors and morticians in securing burial benefits.
10. Assist all public officials in aiding constituents on veterans affairs.

11. Assist legislators and others in appropriate veterans legislation.
12. Perform a humanitarian service in counseling disabled veterans, veterans' widows, dependent parents and orphans in complete realization of veterans benefits as they best apply in individual cases.
13. Assist veterans in filing applications for review of discharges and in obtaining disability retirement or an increase in disability retirement.
14. Assist in having veterans admitted to the VA Hospitals in Columbia, Charleston, Augusta and other adjacent areas.

A great amount of time is spent by our office personnel in reviewing records at the VA Regional Office, and that work must be done carefully and meticulously, since all of the facts must be known in each case that we handle if we are to expect to receive a favorable decision. We have hearings each day before the VA Rating Boards and much time is consumed in personal interviews, in counseling and in letter writing.

Claimants must be advised through their County Veterans Affairs Officers, or directly, of what can be done, if anything, and what evidence is necessary to establish a VA claim for monetary benefits. Such work is highly technical and a thorough knowledge of VA regulations and applicable legislation is absolutely essential.

In addition to representing claimants and supervising the work of forty-six County Veterans Affairs Officers in connection with VA compensation and pension claims, which is our principle work, we must have knowledge of the many other facets of veterans benefits such as GI training, GI insurance, VA hospitalization, Civil Service Preference, military hospital treatment, PX privileges, the different types of military retirement pay, War Orphans training, outpatient treatment, reimbursement of unauthorized medical expenses, dental treatment, burial in national and VA cemeteries, and a knowledge of South Carolina State legislation as it affects veterans.

The demands for our services come not only from County Veterans Affairs Officers, but by request directly from veterans themselves throughout the state, their dependents and survivors, plus requests from elected public officials in behalf of their constituents.

We also find it necessary to deal constantly with other federal

agencies, both locally and in Washington, and at other important government installations over the country. Many contacts by correspondence and telephone with other state agencies are made at frequent intervals. This activity involves a wide variety of subjects, but they are concerned with some problem of vital interest to the person we are trying to serve.

COUNTY VETERANS AFFAIRS OFFICERS CONFERENCE

In October, 1979, the annual conference on Income-Questionnaires was sponsored by this office for our County Veterans Affairs Officers and their staffs.

In addition to our county personnel, representatives from the major Veterans Organizations were present along with officials from the Veterans Administration Hospitals at Columbia, Charleston, and Augusta.

One of the most time consuming, seasonal functions of this Department is assisting pensioners in filing income questionnaires which are required by the Veterans Administration each year. The laws and regulations of reporting income for pension purposes are constantly changing, thus a meeting such as this is an essential part of our work.

Officials of the Veterans Administration Regional Office here in Columbia were in charge of giving instructions for the completion of Income Questionnaires.

ITINERANT SERVICES

This Agency has regular itinerant service to the Veterans Hospitals at Charleston and Augusta in addition to itinerant service to the S.C. State Hospital where there are approximately 500 veterans and State Park which always has from 10 to 20 veterans in residence.

STATISTICAL REPORT

The following is a report of the number of cases and types of services rendered by the South Carolina Department of Veterans Affairs and the forty-six County Veterans Affairs Officers during FY: 1979-1980.

SOUTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

Claims:

Compensation, Pension, Education, Insurance and Reopened	3,831
Correction of Discharge/Records	11
Correspondence:	
Letters Dictated/Typed	13,121
Form Preparation	4,524
Hearings Conducted	192
Interviews	6,503

Mail:

Incoming and Outgoing	55,395
Telephone Calls:	
Incoming and Outgoing	50,176
VA Files Reviewed	1,936

Visits To:

CVAO's, Hospital Wards, VA Hospitals, VA Regional Office	1,125
Consultations	2,013

Files:

Requisitioned, Received, Returned	11,863
Filed and Pulled	39,639
New Files/File Cards Made and Filed	4,911

Legislative Material:

Calendars, Journals, Bills, Files for Bills	1,190
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Miscellaneous:

Articles and Deaths Clipped from Newspapers	440
Miscellaneous Reports	236
Visitors Received	3,818
Conferences Attended	13
Meetings Attended	64

FORTY-SIX COUNTY VETERANS AFFAIRS OFFICERS

Office Contacts	367,293
Letters and Communications Received	393,224
Official Visits to VA Installations, Department of Veterans Affairs and other points outside County .	2,257
Miles traveled on official business	364,792
Compensation Claims prepared, reopened, and appealed	6,956
D.I.C. claims prepared for dependents	1,105
Pension Claims:	
NSC-PT disability and death pension claims for dependents	7,243
Insurance applications, claims, etc.	5,840
Applications for hospital treatment	8,714
Requests for payment of burial expenses	6,842
Applications for GI education and training	4,668
Veterans personally conveyed to VA Hospitals	908
Applications for Correction of Military Records and/or Discharge Change	2,508

FINANCIAL REPORT**Fiscal Year 1979-1980****Expenditures:**

Personal Services	\$254,418
Operating Expenses	
Contractual Services	15,842
Supplies	9,080
Fixed Charges & Contributions	21,147
Equipment	3,364
Total	49,433
Operation of County Offices	443,987
Veterans Organizations	33,403
Employer Contributions	44,902
TOTAL Expenditures	\$826,143

MONETARY BENEFITS

The following is an estimated report of the monetary benefits received by the veterans and the dependent survivors of deceased veterans in the State of South Carolina for the fiscal year July 1, 1979 to June 30, 1980.

Compensation:

Living Veterans	\$ 65,961,010
Dependents of Deceased Veterans	20,024,891
	<u>\$ 85,985,901</u>

Pension:

Living Veterans	\$ 43,237,120
Dependents of Deceased Veterans	26,031,455
	<u>\$ 69,268,575</u>

Burial Allowances	\$ 3,161,958
Educational Benefits	79,283,400
Auto Grants	274,906

Loans:

Direct	\$ 42,946
Guaranteed	243,801,597
Home for Paraplegics	114,439

Total Excluding Guaranteed Loan	\$ 157,385
Medical Services and Administration Costs	64,008,889
Grand Total Less Guaranteed Loans	<u>\$ 302,141,017</u>

**ESTIMATED VETERAN POPULATION
OF SOUTH CAROLINA
JUNE 30, 1980**

<i>County</i>	<i>Total Veterans</i>
ABBEVILLE	2,701
AIKEN	13,065
ALLENDALE	795
ANDERSON	15,400
BAMBERG	1,370
BARNWELL	1,780
BEAUFORT	5,506
BERKELEY	7,005
CALHOUN	984
CHARLESTON	34,653
CHEROKEE	5,162
CHESTER	3,528
CHESTERFIELD	3,613
CLARENDON	2,000
COLLETON	3,192
DARLINGTON	6,500
DILLON	2,670
DORCHESTER	3,715
EDGEFIELD	1,425
FAIRFIELD	2,057
FLORENCE	10,426
GEORGETOWN	3,299
GREENVILLE	37,122
GREENWOOD	6,670
HAMPTON	1,593
HORRY	8,835
JASPER	1,097
KERSHAW	4,639
LANCASTER	5,800
LAURENS	6,218
LEE	1,501
LEXINGTON	14,689
MARION	3,085
MARLBORO	2,335
McCORMICK	690
NEWBERRY	3,873
OCONEE	5,527
ORANGEBURG	7,266
PICKENS	8,071
RICHLAND	33,783

SALUDA	1,675
SPARTANBURG	24,760
SUMTER	7,642
UNION	3,528
WILLIAMSBURG	2,169
YORK	11,589
TOTAL	335,000
VETERANS RECEIVING SERVICE	
CONNECTED COMPENSATION	25,714
VETERANS DRAWING NONSERVICE	
CONNECTED PENSION	17,300
WIDOWS RECEIVING SERVICE	
CONNECTED DEATH BENEFITS	6,183
WIDOWS RECEIVING NONSERVICE	
CONNECTED DEATH BENEFITS	21,862

FREE TUITION

This agency administers the Free Tuition Program for the children of certain veterans under the provisions of Section 59-111-20 of the 1971 Code of Laws, as amended.

During the last nine fiscal years, a total of 4,253 applications have been approved for Free Tuition for all colleges, technical schools or technical institutions and the number of each fiscal year is listed below:

1979-80	867
1978-79	1,018
1977-78	826
1976-77	619
1975-76	428
1974-75	321
1973-74	99
1972-73	50
1971-72	25

It has also been a pleasure for this agency to work with the fine cooperation of the Commissioners:

Honorable Richard W. Riley Governor; Honorable J. Eston Marchant, The Adjutant General; and Honorable Daniel R. McLeod, The Attorney General.

**1980-81
DEPARTMENT COMMANDERS
OF VETERANS ORGANIZATIONS**

	Telephone Number
Mr. Edward T. Pendarvis Department Commander The American Legion Department of South Carolina 96 Murray Boulevard Charleston, South Carolina 29401	722-6426 (R) 884-9589 (O)
Mr. Joseph W. Rabon Department Commander Disabled American Veterans Department of South Carolina Route 1 Aynor, South Carolina 29155	358-3113
Mr. Kenneth L. Hartman Department Commander Veterans of Foreign Wars Department of South Carolina 119 Anita Drive Spartanburg, South Carolina 29302	585-5119 (R)
Mr. Charlie M. Ferguson Department Commander AMVETS Department of South Carolina P.O. Box 3108 Columbia, South Carolina 29230	779-6512
Mr. C.W. Bryant Department Commander Veterans of W.W. I of the U.S.A., Inc. Department of South Carolina Apartment 1702, Finlay House 2100 Blossom Street Columbia, South Carolina 29205	771-6873